

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 01731 301129Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-02 AID-05
OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 /115 W
-----020271 301134Z /13

R 301030Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6472
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1731

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, BA, XF
SUBJECT: ARAB CAUCUS AT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

REF: BELGRADE 5558

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED ME JULY 30 TO CONVEY TO WASHINGTON
SOME OF BACKGROUND AND ATMOSPHERE OF ARAB CAUCUS RESOLUTION,
WHICH IS DESCRIBED REFTEL. FOREIGN MINISTER, WHOM I
WAS SEEING ON OTHER MATTERS, SAID HE ASSUMED I HAD HEARD THAT
MIDDLE EAST LANGUAGE TO BE ADOPTED AT NAM MINISTERIAL WAS
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"VERY TOUGH." I SAID I HAD NOT (REFTEL ARRIVED AFTER OUR
MEETING). HE ASKED THAT I CONVEY TO WASHINGTON FACT THAT MOOD
WITHIN CAUCUS WAS DEPRESSED OVER LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD
PEACE AND MOST DELEGATIONS SPENT THEIR BEST EFFORTS ON AVOIDING
WIDENING INTER-ARAB SPLITS. SPECIFICALLY, MODERATES AGREED
TO MANY BITS OF LANGUAGE, WHICH FONMIN SAID THEY KNEW WERE
"WRONG" AND UNHELPFUL, IN ORDER TO GET OTHERS NOT TO ATTACK

SADAT DIRECTLY. IT WAS INEVITABLY UNITED STATES WHICH SUFFERED IN THIS EFFORT.

2. DESCRIBING LANGUAGE CONTAINED PARA 4 REFTEL, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THERE HAD BEEN QUITE A STRUGGLE. IRAQ HAD PROPOSED LANGUAGE WHICH NOT ONLY CONDEMNED U.S. DIRECTLY BUT ALSO NAMED SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN. SOMALIS AND OTHERS HAD RESPONDED THAT IF US WAS NAMED OTHER POWERS, SPECIFICALLY SOVIETS, ALSO SHOULD BE NAMED. EGYPT TOOK STRONG POSITION THAT U.S. SHOULD NOT BE NAMED. END RESULT WAS AS DISCUSSED PARA 4 REFTEL, STRONG BUT NOT PRECISELY AIMED LANGUAGE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUED THAT LEADING ARAB MODERATES, SUCH AS SAUDIS, WERE NOT IN GOOD POSITION TO SOFTEN LANGUAGE ATTACKING U.S. BECAUSE EVEN MODERATES COMING TO FEEL THAT SADAT INITIATIVE IS JUST ABOUT DEAD, AND THAT USG MUST BEAR LARGE MEASURE OF THE BLAME. REFERRING TO BRIEFING I HAD GIVEN HIM ON LEEDS CASTLE TALKS, HE SAID NOW THAT GAP IS SO PRECISELY DEFINED IT IS CLEAR THAT ONLY USG PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO ACCEPT ALL-FRONT APPLICABILITY OF SC RES 242 CAN SAVE SITUATION. AND THERE IS GROWING DOUBT AMONG AMERICA'S ARAB FRIENDS THAT USG IS PREPARED TO DO THE NECESSARY. FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED THAT SOME OF HARSH LANGUAGE WAS ACCEPTED BY CAUCUS AFTER SOME MINISTERS, INCLUDING SAUDI, HAD LEFT BELGRADE (FONMIN HIMSELF RETURNED HERE FRIDAY JULY 28).

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4. ARAB CAUCUS MOVE TO RAISE QUESTION OF PALESTINE AT SPECIAL UN SESSION FONMIN DESCRIBED AS MOVE TO POSITION ARABS TO HANDLE SITUATION WHEN (NOT IF) SADAT INITIATIVE FORMALLY DECLARED AT AN END. FOREIGN MINISTER THEN NOTED HIS FEELING THAT PRINCE FAHD'S TRIP TO CAIRO JULY 29 NOT A GOOD SIGN, AT LEAST FROM U.S. POINT OF VIEW. HE SAID SAUDIS ARE BECOMING EXTREMELY NERVOUS ABOUT LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE ALONG ROUTE CHOSEN BY SADAT AND U.S. AND HE WONDERED IF PRINCE FAHD'S VISIT IS NOT THE BEGINNING OF SAG'S OWN MOVES TO PREPARE FOR DAY WHEN SADAT INITIATIVE IS DEAD. HE SAID NEED FOR ARABS SO TO POSITION THEMSELVES WAS, ALONG WITH IMMEDIATE NEED NOT TO WIDEN PRESENT SPLITS, DOMINANT MOOD AMONG MODERATE ARABS AT BELGRADE. PROBLEM IS, AT BOTTOM, HOW TO "SAVE" BOTH SADAT AND ASAD.

5. AT THIS POINT FONMIN HAD TO BREAK OFF DISCUSSION FOR WEEKLY CABINET MEETING. HE SAID HE HOPED U.S. WOULD MOVE SOON; THE REJECTIONISTS' "WE TOLD YOU SO" IS BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE TRUE PROPHECY.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, ARABS, POLICIES, MEETINGS
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Draft Date: 30 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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